

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL ON THE BASES

1. PROVIDED BELOW IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE LEAD EDITORIAL APPEARING IN THE DAILY EXPRESS OF JANUARY 14.
QUOTE. PLAYING THE GAME OF ONE-UPMANSHIP WITH UNCLE SAM. IF YOU EXAMINE THE HISTORY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES, YOU WILL NOTE THAT FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER IT IS LITTERED WITH THE BONES OF PHILIPPINE DEFEATS IN THE HANDS OF AMERICAN NEGOTIATORS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO THE RP-US MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT AND ITS SEVERAL REVISIONS OVER THE YEARS SINCE IT WAS ORIGINALLY CONCLUDED IN 1946.

PARA. A NUMBER OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SERIES OF DEBACLES SUFFERED BY THE PHILIPPINES, PRINCIPAL AMONG WHICH WERE THE LIMITED OPTIONS IT HAD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE ARCHITECTS OF US FOREIGN POLICY RELATING TO THE PHILIPPINES HAD SEEN TO IT THAT IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE BEFORE THE PHILIPPINES COULD
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REALLY SHAKE THE UNITED STATES OFF ITS BACK. THUS, IN THE YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE WHEN SOME OF OUR LEADERS FELT THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR US TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ON OUR OWN, WE FOUND OUT TO OUR DISMAY THAT THE ROOTS OF OUR DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES WENT FAR DEEPER THAN WE THOUGHT. WE DISCOVERED, FOR INSTANCE, HOW VULNERABLE WE WERE TO ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL CONSIDERING THAT THE UNITED

STATES WAS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE LONE MARKET FOR THE PRODUCTS UPON WHICH THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY WAS BUILT. FULLY AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF THE "SATELLIZATION" OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, OUR LEADERS DECIDED THAT IT WAS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO CONTINUE GIVING IN TO THE TERMS OF UNCLE SAM.

PARA. TODAY, HOWEVER, CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED CONSIDERABLY. ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, THE PHILIPPINES IS UNDERTAKING A MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE, AND JUDGING BY ITS PERFORMANCE DURING THE PERIOD OF RECESSION, THE CONSENSUS IS THAT THE PROGRAM WILL PROVE TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS. IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, THE PHILIPPINE IS DOING EQUALLY WELL AS IT REACHES OUT ITS HAND IN FRIENDSHIP TO ALL NATIONS REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, IN LINE WITH THE NEW FOREIGN POLICY GUIDELINES DRAWN UP BY PRESIDENT MARCOS ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS THE NEW REALITIES IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE. WITH OUR ASIAN BROTHERS AND WITH OUR NEW FRIENDS IN THE THIRD WORLD AND AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST BLAC, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DIVERSIFY THE MARKETS FOR OUR EXPORT PRODUCTS, THEREBY LESSENING TO SOME EXTENT OUR ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES AND OUR OTHER TRADITIONAL TRADING PARTNERS.

PARA. NO DOUBT, THE UNITED STATES IS AWARE OF ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR COUNTRY, IF ONE WERE TO JUDGE BY THE WAY IT IS PLAYING THE DIPLOMATIC GAME OF ONE-UPMANSHIP ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MILITARY BASES ISSUE WITH COLD-BLOODED POLITICAL REALISM, THE US GOVERNMENT TODAY IS FIGHTING A DEADLY SERIOUS GAME TO HOLD ON TO ITS AIR AND NAVAL BASES HERE UNDER ALMOST THE SAME TERMS, EMPLOYING ALL MEANS FAIR AND FOUL, FROM ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL TO OUTRIGHT LIES ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT POLICIES, OMINOUSLY BACKED UP BY THE GLOBAL PROPAGANDA MACHINE OF THE US MEDIA.

PARA. BUT IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS HOLDS AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE, AND IN A RECENT POLICY SPEECH GIVING SUBSTANCE TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THE BASE LANDS IN QUESTION WERE OURS AND OURS ALONE, HE COMMISSIONED AN EXPERT STUDY TO DETERMINE THE IMPLICATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PHILIPPINES. TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREVIOUS PHILIPPINE DEMAND FOR RENTALS, THIS LATEST MOVE MAKES IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS NOW TWO OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: IT COULD EITHER TELL THE US BASES HERE TO PACK UP AND LEAVE, OR IT COULD ALLOW THESE BASES TO

REMAINEON PHILIPPINE SOIL ONLY IF THE UNITED STATES WILL
PAY THROUGH ITS NOSE. END QUOTE.

2. WE CAN EXPECT CONSIDERABLY MORE IMMODERATE PRESS
VARIATIONS ON THE BASIC THEME OF THIS EDITORIAL, WHICH
WAS WITHOUT DOUBT OFFICIALLY INSPIRED.
SULLIVAN

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